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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00
HA-05 IO-13 /086 W
----------050756 091404Z /72
R 052145Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 659
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, BL
SUBJ: LA PAZ UNIVERSITY TO REOPEN JUNE 1

REF: LA PAZ 3416

1. SUMMARY: GOB HAS ANNOUNCED THAT LA PAZ UNIVERSITY WILL REOPEN JUNE 1 AND THAT ELECTION OF UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES WILL FOLLOW. GENERAL SITUATION REMAINS QUIET ALTHOUGH THREE STUDENTS (RECENTLY RETURNED FROM EXILE) HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH DESTRUCTION OF UNIVERSITY PROPERTY. GOB ANNOUNCEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN TIMED TO AFFECT SIZE AND MILITANCY OF STUDENT MARCH CALLED FOR AFTERNOON OF MAY 5 TO PROTEST GOB ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. GOB ISSUED STATEMENT MAY 4 ANNOUNCING THAT LA PAZ UNIVERSITY OF SAN ANDRES WILL REOPEN JUNE 1 AND THAT THE "INSTITUTIONALIZATION" I.E., THE ELECTION OF UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS, WILL FOLLOW, ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC DATE WAS SET FOR THE ELECTIONS. PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 1 WILL BE USED FOR CLEANING THE
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UNIVERSITY AND REMOVING THE PAINTED SLOGANS FROM THE WALLS, A PROCESS THAT UNIVERSITY RECTOR SAHONERO ESTIMATES WILL COST $50,000.

3. THE GENERAL SITUATION SINCE THE STUDENT TAKEOVER ON APRIL 27 AND THE GOB CLOSING OF THE UNIVERSITY THE FOLLOWING DAY HAS REMAINED CALM AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS OF

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VIOLENCE. HOWEVER, GOB AUTHORITIES ARRESTED SIX PERSONS ON MAY 1 FOR ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING THE OFFICES OF UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES AND FOR DEFACING UNIVERSITY PROPERTY. WHILE THREE WERE RELEASED THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE REMAINING THREE, EDUARDO PAZ RADA, FERNANDO ALVAREZ PLATA AND JAVIER SEOANE, ALL REPORTEDLY RECENT RETURNEES FROM EXILE, HAVE BEEN CHARGED AND REMANDED FOR TRIAL. FATHER JULIO TUMIRI OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASSEMBLY TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT HE IS SATISFIED THAT THE GOB IS HANDLING THEIR CASES PROPERLY AND THE ASSEMBLY HAS NO INTENTION OF HELPING TO DEFEND THOSE ACCUSED OF "COMMON CRIMES".

4. THE SUPREME STUDENT-FACULTY COUNCIL, THE SELF-APPOINTED GROUP THAT ORIGINALLY SEIZED THE UNIVERSITY, HAS ANNOUNCED A MARCH FOR THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 5 TO DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE RE-OPENING OF THE UNIVERSITY, THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL AND THE RELEASE OF ALL STUDENTS ARRESTED.

5. COMMENT: THE GOB ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE UNIVERSITY WILL REOPEN JUNE 1 FOLLOWED THE SUPREME COUNCIL'S CALL FOR A PROTEST MARCH MAY 5 AND MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE THE ABILITY OF THE RADICAL LEFT TO EXPLOIT THE GOB'S TEMPORARY CLOSING OF THE UNIVERSITY.
BOEKER

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNIVERSITIES, OPENING OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ03600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780196-0420
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780589/aaaacygs.tel
Line Count: 93
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LA PAZ 3416
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2780107
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LA PAZ UNIVERSITY TO REOPEN JUNE 1
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, BL, LA PAZ UNIVERSITY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bdcacba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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